

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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A NEW RACCOON FROM NASSAU ISLAND, BAHAMAS.  
BY OUTRAM BANGS.

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The announcement lately made by Mr. Oldfield Thomas\* of the existence of two distinct species of indigenous Muridæ in the West Indies, *Oryzomys antillarum*, of Jamaica, and *O. victus*, of St. Vincent, has somewhat changed our ideas of the mammalian fauna of these islands. Mr. C. J. Maynard has, moreover, known for many years that a raccoon was abundant on Nassau Island.

Before Mr. Maynard started on his last trip to the Bahamas I begged him to get specimens of this raccoon. But his time was so occupied in collecting other objects of natural history, in which he was more interested, that it is doubtful if he would have secured one at all if just before he started for home some negroes had not brought him a female that they had caught alive. Mr. Maynard brought her home alive, and on the voyage she gave birth to one young, also a female. The two are now alive and well at Mr. Maynard's place in Newton, Mass., where I went last summer to see them. I was at once struck by the small size of these raccoons, and got Mr. Maynard to write to his friend, Mr. Herbert L. Claridge, at Nassau, to get me a specimen. In due course Mr. Claridge sent me one, a young male, unfortunately with the back part of the skull smashed. The small size of this specimen, together with the peculiarities of the unbroken part of the skull, are sufficient to distinguish the animal as a distinct island form.

There is no tradition among the inhabitants of Nassau that

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\*Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 7, vol. I, Feb., 1898, p. 176.

the raccoon was ever introduced upon the island, and I am unable to say from what continental stock it was derived.

The raccoon is abundant upon Nassau, but Mr. Maynard believes that it does not exist upon any of the other islands of the Bahama group.

The Nassau raccoon may well bear the name of its discoverer, who has done, and is doing, so much work on the Bahamas.

***Procyon maynardi* sp. nov.**

*Type* from Nassau Island, Bahamas. No. 7750, ♂ young, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected in August, 1897, by Herbert L. Claridge.

*Specific characters.*—Size small; hind foot small; colors and markings as usual; shoulder patch not so intensely colored and more overlaid by black hairs than in the Florida form (*P. lotor elucus*). Skull small; palatine extension very short and narrow; upper carnassial and molar teeth small and less square than in *P. lotor*, especially on the inner sides, which are much less truncate and more pointed.

*Cranial characters.*—The skull of the type and only specimen, a young male with the second teeth fully developed but unworn, consists of the forward parts of the skull only; the back from behind the nasals and behind the palatine extension is missing. Compared with skulls of *P. lotor* of the same age, it is smaller; palate narrower; palatine extension much shorter and narrower; malar slender and weak; infraorbital foramen large. The best character is the short narrow palatine extension. Probably a more perfect skull would show other characters.

*Dental characters.*—The teeth of *P. maynardi* are small and the upper carnassial and molar teeth quite differently shaped from those of *P. lotor*. They are shorter and broader—*i. e.*, much less square. The inside edges of these teeth in *P. lotor* are truncate, in *P. maynardi* they slope off from front and back into a rounding point, the last molar showing this peculiarity most strongly.

*Measurements.*—The type, ♂ young (from dried skin, apparently a little shrunken): Total length, 623; tail vertebræ, 210; hind foot, 96. Skull: length of nasals, 28.6; length of palate, 58.2; width of palate at middle of carnassial tooth, 17.2; length of palatine extension from a line across alveoli of last upper molars to end of pterygoid process, 23.8; to end of palate, 12.6; least width of palatine extension, 13.6; length of single half of mandible, 72.2.